



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

#### Charter Review Committee

Date: 2023-09-27

Time: 6:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

#### Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Jesse Arnold, Jonathan Barnes, Geoffrey Beckwith (remote), Bill Brown, Alan Foulds, Andrew Grimes, Chris Haley, Chuck Robinson

#### **Members - Not Present:**

Phil Pacino

#### **Others Present:**

Town Clerk Laura Gemme, Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Assistant Town Manager Matt Kraunelis

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Jacquelyn LaVerde

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### Topics of Discussion:

This meeting was held in-person in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room and remotely via Zoom.

#### **Call to Order:**

Moderator Alan Foulds called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

#### **Elect Chair and Vice Chair:**

The first order of business was to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Foulds opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Bill Brown nominated Chuck Robinson for Chair, which was seconded by Jonathan Barnes.

Chuck Robinson nominated Chris Haley for Chair.

Town Manager Fidel Maltez read a statement from Phil Pacino, who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, respectfully requesting to be considered for Chair or Vice Chair.

Jesse Arnold nominated Phil Pacino for Chair.

Chuck Robinson withdrew his name from consideration for Chair.

**Chris Haley was elected Chair by a vote of 5-3.**

**Roll call vote: Chris Haley for Chris Haley, Chuck Robinson for Chris Haley, Jonathan Barnes for Phil Pacino, Alan Foulds for Chris Haley, Jesse Arnold for Phil Pacino, Bill Brown for Phil Pacino, Andrew Grimes for Chris Haley, Geoff Beckwith for Chris Haley.**

Chair Chris Haley then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Bill Brown nominated Phil Pacino for Vice Chair.

**Phil Pacino was voted as Vice Chair unanimously 8-0.**

**Roll call vote: Geoff Beckwith – Yes, Alan Foulds – Yes, Chuck Robinson – Yes, Jonathan Barnes – Yes, Jesse Arnold – Yes, Bill Brown – Yes, Andrew Grimes – Yes, Chris Haley – Yes.**

**Discuss Charter Review Committee Process:**

Members offered several suggestions on how to proceed with the Charter Review process.

Bill Brown suggested adding a provision to the Charter, which nullifies any action taken by a board or committee that is not in compliance with the Charter. He also suggested asking appointed boards and committees if they are satisfied with the number of members.

Town Clerk Laura Gemme suggested going through the Charter and subjects in order, setting dates, then deciding which sections to review. Articles could be reviewed at one meeting, changes sent to Town Counsel for review then distributed to the Committee, then voted on at the subsequent meeting.

Alan Foulds noted that past Charter Review Committees had public meetings and meetings with major boards and committees to hear their suggestions.

Geoff Beckwith suggested that it would be helpful to begin with a wholistic review of the Charter before parsing it, hear from past Select Board Chairs on what worked and did not work with the Charter, and call upon experts to share best practices in Charter development.

**Discuss next meeting dates:**

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that meeting times going forward would be 7:00 pm. The next meetings were scheduled for Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Meeting Agenda Items:**

Jesse Arnold suggested that members review the current Charter ahead of the next meeting and think about which boards and committees might want to weigh-in, and give them notice that the Charter Review Committee would like to hear from them.

Geoff Beckwith stated that the Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association (MMMA) has a Form of Government Committee that provides overviews and discussions to Charter Review Committees across the state. He offered to contact the Chair of that committee, Michael Driscoll, and invite him to the next meeting.

**On a motion by Alan Foulds, seconded by Andrew Grimes. The Charter Review Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn at 6:44 pm.**

**Roll call vote: Geoff Beckwith – Yes, Alan Foulds – Yes, Chuck Robinson – Yes, Jonathan Barnes – Yes, Jesse Arnold – Yes, Bill Brown – Yes, Andrew Grimes – Yes, Chris Haley – Yes.**